WDGV/Brig Gen Terhune/2221

12 Aug 59

Discoverer Re-Entry Studies

WDZ (Col Curtin)

At the time of writing this memo, the undersigned and Colonel Evans, together with Colonel Cody and Lockheed, had just reviewed the results of the Discoverer 5 launch. We have mutually agreed upon actions taken to date, which we hope will provide with a successful Discoverer 6 flight. In addition to these actions, I feel one additional study is required. This study would be a detailed review of all conditions affecting re-entry and would be similar to the close look we (the undersigned and Col Dodge) took at the GE capsule and nose cone recovery program early this year--prior to the time we began to successfully recover nose cones. In view of the large number of flights scheduled for the Discoverer series, I feel this type of background is necessary to prevent possible additional trouble in this area.

CHT